

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 /085 W
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R 251444Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1149
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, FI, AU
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT KIRCHSCHLAEGER'S VISIT TO FINLAND

REF: VIENNA 2204

1. AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT KIRCHSCHLAEGER'S VISIT TO FINLAND
MARCH 15-18, ALTHOUGH LARGELY CEREMONIAL, PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY
FOR FINLAND AND AUSTRIA TO EMPHASIZE THEIR COMMON INTERESTS
AS EUROPEAN NEUTRALS. ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER
PAHR AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY STARIBACHER,
KIRCHSCHLAEGER WAS CORDIALLY RECEIVED IN FINLAND WHERE HE
TOURED HELSINKI AND VISITED NORTHERN CITY OF OULU, AND
HELD DISCUSSIONS ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS.

2. IN HIS PUBLIC SPEECHES AND PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS,
KIRCHSCHLAEGER NOTED THAT EVEN WITH A POLICY OF NEUTRALITY,
DIFFERENT SITUATIONS SOMETIMES DEMAND DIFFERENT POLITICAL
SOLUTIONS, BUT SAID THAT SMALL NATIONS HAVE NO ALTERNA-
TIVE TO DETENTE AND THAT FINLAND AND AUSTRIA HAVE UNIFORM
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INTERESTS IN THIS RESPECT. KIRCHSCHLAEGER SAID IT IS
IMPORTANT FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES TO COOPERATE WITH EACH
OTHER. HE LAID EMPHASIS ON EFTA SUMMIT (REFTEL) AND
SAID THAT INTENTION IS NOT TO FORM ALLIANCE AGAINST
CEMA COUNTRIES, BUT TO OFFER NEUTRAL COUNTRIES A POSSI-
BILITY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

3. LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE WAS ACHIEVED IN ECONOMIC AREAS AND THE FINNS DID NOT MENTION EFTA SUMMIT IN PUBLIC REMARKS. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN IN HIS SPEECH CHARACTERIZED TWO COUNTRIES AS REMAINING OUTSIDE CONFLICTS OF BIG POWERS AND STEADFASTLY OBSERVING A NEUTRAL FOREIGN POLICY. KEKKONEN CITED THEIR COMMON EXPERIENCE IN HOSTING SALT TALKS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN FINLAND AND AUSTRIA IN UN. HE SAID INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY PARTICULARLY NEEDS SERVICES OF NEUTRAL STATES.

4. ACCORDING TO AUSTRIANS HERE, FINNS DID NOT PROPOSE ANY POLITICAL SUBJECTS FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSION BUT DID BRIEF KIRCHSCHLAEGER ON CURRENT DIFFERENCES WITH NORWAY OVER ISSUE OF FRG TROOP PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISES THERE. THIS WAS PRESENTED IN LOW KEY, ACCORDING TO AUSTRIANS, AS WAS MENTION OF FINNISH PROPOSAL FOR NEUCLEAR-FREE ZONE. FINNS APPARENTLY DID NOT MAKE ANY SUGGESTION THAT AUSTRIANS ENDORSE THIS PROPOSAL, CONTRARY TO SOME RUMORS CIRCULATING IN HELSINKI IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT.

5. KIRCHSCHLAEGER'S VISIT, WHICH PRECEDED THAT OF SOVIET PRIMIN KOSYGIN BY A WEEK, WAS GIVEN PROMINENT ATTENTION IN THE FINNISH PRESS. LEADING HELSINGIN SANOMAT EDITORIALIZED THAT IT REPRESENTED ONE OF "PLEASANT EVENTS" IN FOREIGN POLICY. MOST EDITORIALS STRESSED NEUTRALITY OF TWO COUNTRIES BUT POINTED OUT THAT DIFFERENCES IN BASIS OF NEUTRALITY MEANT DIFFERENT MANIFESTATIONS OF NEUTRALITY. THERE WAS NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE. PRESIDENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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KEKKONEN ACCEPTED INVITATION TO MAKE RECIPROVAL VISIT TO AUSTRIA, PROBABLY IN 1978.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, DEBRIEFINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770104-0162
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770323/aaaaathr.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
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